8/28/70

Dear Mary,

Gary is lost in the north woods, near a Canadian nowhere known as Jellicoe's Country Store. Your letter of the 26th couldn't have come at a better time, for I was about to burst from the pedantry with which the editing of COUP is being done. Best intentions and a l that, but sterile! There 's not much I can do about it, and I don't want to offend the very niche scholar who apparently regards all writing as on physics or math. Thank God, I'm almost through it.

I knew Bud's boys were en route. Nice ones.

The problems of parenthood are ours only vicariously. We just had to take four rascals to their parents, having caught them disassembling a bridge accross a stream on out place.

Because I would not give you false comfort, I encourage you to undertake whatever you can to alert the service to Jimmy's problem so that, if anyone has the disposition (and they can't be baby-sitters), he may be alert. Sometimes there are such people in the services. And, while your reaction, particularly Buck's, is understandable, do not be too harsh on Jimmy. What decent boy today would want to be part of what we are doing in SE Asia? Incidently, I think you should try and take steps to see to it that he does not get sent there, for what he wants leasts is there most accessible. Although it is new in the media, that is merely from suppression. I've known about it for years, from correspondents who are friends.

Right now it looks as thouk you've picked the best time to come, with one possible exception I'll explain. And, unless you insist upon Braniff (Dulles is at least as good for me as Friendship, maybe a bit better), there are other non-stops, including either American or Eastern, so don't limit yourself when there may be better flights. It is a holiday weekend and I suggest you make reservations immediately, both ways. You can always change or cancel, without cost. The one possibility (and I think it will not come on a holiday) is that the editor, whose vacation is now ending, was supposed to come here after a week in New York. That seems to me to be after you'd be here. Also, I think he'll want to go over all I've done with his editing first, which may delay him further. So, please plan on coming when you say, but let's make a last-minute check to be certain. If I get a specific date, which is not possible before next week, I'll let you know.

I welcome the report on Shirley, and you do not exaggerate Sylvia's intelligence....On Tom, did you get the notebook? You'll understand the importance more when you are here. I'm about to file a suit on Ferrie documents, for example. Penn, alas, does not surprise me. I wish I could explain to myself his not paying the money he owes me. I has already cost me almost a third of the amount in charges he has it, and wee need it so urgently. Right now I need paper for the copying machine and can't get it. When I get the advance, it is going to the bank, on our debt, not even on things you'll see the house really needs.

Remember, have some informal clothes. Tell Buck I usually wear only shorts and zoris here. Bring your bathing suit, in case the water is not too cold by then. The pool is 20 feet from the back door...We do look forward to your coming. I think it will also be good for us. Until then,